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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea/China/USSR

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SUBJECT Movement of North Korean Troops and Officials

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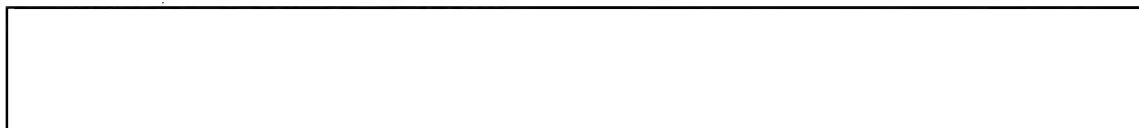
SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In early 1951, it was rumored in North Korea that various high-ranking military and civilian officials were out of favor with KIM Il-sung and the North Korean government and had been imprisoned or executed. Actually, these rumors were circulated to conceal the fact that these leaders had been sent to the USSR to work with and under the Soviet Military Committee (SMC). Among persons believed to be in the USSR in mid-June were CH'OE Yong-kon, chief of staff of the North Korean Army, and a division commander of the North Korean Tank Corps, both of whom had been named in Pyongyang rumors as shot by KIM Il-sung.

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2. As of mid-June, North Korean organized troops totaled approximately 150,000 men. About 20 percent are veterans; the rest are recent North Korean conscripts or Republic of Korea citizens conscripted or captured and reintegrated.

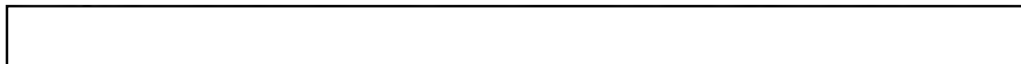
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3. About 26 May, approximately 300 new North Korean officers were assigned to various army units. These men had been specially chosen from the ranks in November 1950 and sent to Tsinhua for three months' training. Additional personnel are being trained in each three-month period.

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4. During May, North Korean officers and officials in the Pyongyang area made frequent official trips by train via Antung and Kikin to Ch'ongjin. The Manchurian railroads were in good condition, and the trip required only two days.

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